

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **November 25, 2003**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 9

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:
(Confidential)

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: **Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority Sworn Officers Participation in the LEOS Retirement Benefit**

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve participation of the Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority (BRRJA) Administrator and sworn officers in the LEOS retirement benefit offered through the Virginia Retirement System.

SUMMARY:

The Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority voted on November 6 to approve participation of its Administrator and sworn officers in the LEOS retirement benefit offered through the Virginia Retirement System. The LEOS benefit could be given to BRRJA officers without increased cost to the localities. Not only do all participating BRRJA jurisdictions offer this benefit, the majority of regional jails throughout Virginia provide LEOS for their jail officers. Participation is subject to approval by each of the Authority's governing bodies.

PRIOR ACTION(S):

None

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

CONTACT(S):

Christopher R. Webb 847-3100

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Resolution
- November 7 Letter from Mr. Webb

REVIEWED BY: lkp

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the 1999 Virginia General Assembly enacted legislation allowing the Administrator and sworn jail officers of regional jails to participate in the LEOS system of benefits available to state police officers, state correctional officers and sheriffs deputies in those jurisdictions which have chosen to participate in such program; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority voted at its meeting of November 6, 2003, to include the Administrator and sworn officers in such program in order to remain competitive in the hiring and retention of employees, subject to the approval by each of the governing bodies participating in the jail authority; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority requests each of the member governing bodies to adopt this Resolution authorizing such participation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Lynchburg, a political subdivision which is a member of the Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority, acting by and through its governing body, does hereby concur that the Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority, participating in the Virginia Retirement System under Title 51.1, Chapter 1, Article 5 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, may elect to have such employees of the Jail who are employed in positions as full time salaried Jail Administrators and Jail Officers and whose tenure is not restricted as to temporary or provisional appointment, become eligible, effective January 1, 2004, or as soon thereafter as approval is received from each of the governing bodies of the participating jurisdictions, to be provided benefits in the Virginia Retirement System equivalent to those provided for state police officers of the Department of State Police, state correctional officers and sheriffs deputies in those jurisdictions which have chosen to participate in such programs, as set out in Section 51.1-138 of the Code of Virginia, in lieu of the benefits that would otherwise be provided as such Code has been or may be amended from time to time.

Adopted:

Certified:

Clerk of Council

CERTIFICATE

I, Patricia W. Kost, Clerk of Council for the City of Lynchburg, Virginia, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted at a lawfully organized meeting of the Lynchburg City Council held in Lynchburg, Virginia, on November 25, 2003.

Given under my hand and seal of the City of Lynchburg this ____ day of November, 2003.

Patricia W. Kost
Clerk of Council

B R R J A

510 Ninth Street • P.O. Box 6078 • Lynchburg, VA 24505 • (434) 847-3100 • Fax (434) 847-5134



November 7, 2003

RECEIVED

NOV 10 2003

**COUNCIL MANAGER
RECEIVED**

Mr. L. Kimball Payne
Lynchburg City Manager
900 Church Street
P.O. Box 60
Lynchburg, VA 24505

Dear Kim:

The Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority Board voted at its' meeting held November 6, 2003 to approve participation of sworn officers in the LEOS retirement benefit offered through the Virginia Retirement System, subject to approval by each of the Authority's governing bodies.

At the time the Authority assumed operation of the jails in 1998 all participating jurisdictions offered the LEOS benefit to Sheriffs' deputies with the exception of Halifax County. Thus, the Authority entered into a private supplemental plan for those BRRJA officers that would be eligible for LEOS had they remained with their respective Sheriff's office. The Halifax County Board of Supervisors recently approved LEOS for Sheriff's officers. It was the unanimous opinion of the BRRJA Board that now was the ideal time to provide this benefit for Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority sworn officers for a number of reasons.

I presented to our Board information that demonstrated the LEOS benefit could be given to BRRJA officers without increased cost to the localities. Not only do all participating BRRJA jurisdictions offer this benefit; the majority of regional jails throughout Virginia provide LEOS for their jail officers. Approval of this measure has long been a goal of the Administrator and Board of the BRRJA and it is our belief that putting all sworn employees of the Authority on equal footing as far as retirement benefits are concerned is both the right and fair thing to do. We are, therefore, respectfully requesting your locality's approval of this benefit as required by law.

Approving this measure would not only aid the Authority in recruiting and retaining competent jail officers; it would eliminate the administrative and liability problems of managing a private plan. Currently, the Authority has only three participants in the private plan receiving monthly payments. There is more than enough money in the private plan at this time to continue these payments or offer the participants a buy-out should we discontinue it.

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I have included a sample Resolution, which your Council may use to adopt this benefit. I would be more than happy to personally present this information to your Council and answer any questions they might have or provide you with any supporting documentation you feel appropriate.

I remain,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher R. Webb".

Christopher R. Webb
Administrator

CRW/mb

Enclosure

Cc: Sheriff Ronald L. Gillispie

Colonel Charles W. Bennett, Jr.